## ON THE IMPORTANCE OF A DUE CULTIVATION OF THE FACULTIES FOR THE ARTS.

Rev. Sir,—That the faculties for the arts have not received their due share of exercise compared with the other faculties, as language, order, calculation, causation, &c., will, on a moment's reflection, be admitted by all; and that they ought to receive their due and legitimate exercise, and have a right direction given to them, no one will now deny. There is nothing more easy to comprehend than that there should be a sound training given to all the faculties of the human mind; and though this is a truism so very evident, nevertheless it has been but very partially regarded. Even in the Universities there are no professors of the arts; and in those seats of learning there must have been in olden time a great desire for the cultivation of the faculties for the arts of design, if we regard the works of Christian art which they have handed down to us from those early times, and which reflect so much credit on the ecclesiastical designers of those far bygone days. The faculties of form, colour, and constructiveness, have, in general education, had little or no attention paid to them, and which great neglect is the cause we are, as a nation, so far behind our foreign neighbours in all matters connected with design.

We have all along been satisfied with being copyists instead of being inventors, which, as intellectual beings, we ought continually to be endeavouring to become. Our continental neighbours have had schools of design for many centuries, and Italy in particular, for upwards of two thousand years; and though wars and civil broils have often impeded the progress of the arts of design, yet they have, amidst the greatest of difficulties, as often arisen and shone in considerable splendour. We must really educate the faculties for the arts, or we must be content to remain slavish imitators, following in their wake to our own shame and degradation. But amidst the great skill in design in Italy, Germany, and France, there is a vast quantity of absurdity mixed up in their productions of whims, fancies, caprices, and endless incongruities, and which has done, and is still doing, great mischief, both as regards a right training of the mind of the student and that of the public. Falsehoods in art should never be produced nor errors committed. Consistency should ever be seen in the design, and not such inconsistent patching and sticking together of all sorts of anomalies which the artificial system has established, and which the uneducated eye is still obliged to behold. This state of things entirely arises from a wrong direction and an undue exercise of the faculties of the arts, and the correction of which is the aim of all intellectual beings. The mental powers should have natural training, and not be allowed to indulge and revel in abuses of any kind. The works of creation, in all their truth and beauty, should be unfolded and explained, and true representations of them, enforced in the strictest terms, be made from the most simple blade of grass to the sublime and majestic oak, and from the smallest insect to the highest of all God's works on earth—man.

By thus educating this portion of the human mind, a true foundation would be laid for receiving correct impressions of every natural beauty and interesting feature that the world possesses and is ever producing; and so would the perceptive faculties become most active in observation, continually enriching the mind from Nature's boundless field, and laying up from her storehouse inexhaustible treasures for the purposes of design. Design, in its true sense, is a word in these days scarcely understood. How often do we hear the word design mentioned in connection with the most important matters, and yet it is treated with the greatest indifference. In these days a person calls himself a designer if he can patch together certain forms which he has copied from works which may or may not be correctly designed; and as long as such incongruous designs of patchwork are received and approved of, the patchworking artist believes that his heterogeneous mixture has much meaning in it; and though he has not the slightest notion of what it does mean, he considers it must mean something; and as it has been approved of for what it is called—a design, by a council of persons of profound learning and other high attainments, it must therefore be a design for the object required. Now the so-called designer and the council may not have considered that the design should have been designed to illustrate the subject for which a design was required, and that the work when executed should shew in its forms, divisions, and arrangements that it was in harmony in all its parts, becoming part and parcel, and made to illustrate the foundation and leading features of the subject given. This is the all-important point that has remained a dead letter for many centuries, and only because a due cultivation of the faculties for the arts has not been considered by the heads of education to be of sufficient importance to be embraced in general education, as though God created those faculties to remain inactive, and so like the candle when lighted and placed under the bushel. What God has given should in nowise be rejected, but nurtured in his fear, and properly cultivated, that in due season it may bring forth its fruit abundantly. But the great difficulty to get over is the indifference shewn towards a legitimate exercise of these faculties, and which arises from the ignorance that pervades mankind on this branch of education. So far it is unfortunate; nevertheless, it must be met with and conquered, that the mind of man may be made what our heavenly Father intended it should be; and though as there always was and ever will be grades of intellect, and hewers of wood and drawers of water, we must still bear in mind that the least in intellect is of equal importance in the light of Christianity, as well as being made a profitable servant, according to the mental capacity that God had given him. The hewer may be made less useful or improved, just in proportion as his faculties have had or had not a due cultivation; he may be made to hew the wood to advantage; the carpenter to saw his wood according to the size and shape he is ordered, and the carver to cut out the forms as they are drawn in the design; every one to his calling may either be perfected by a sound training and proper cultivation, or, by a neglect of them, be seriously injured—lowered in the scale of intelligence, and made less useful as labourers and mechanics than they were intended to be.

I trust ere long that the public mind will be opened to this important part of education, and be up and stirring in it, and become convinced that the faculties for the arts are of equal value with the rest. It is above a year since I completed my work on Kilpeck church, the subject of which had occupied my mind for these last thirty years; and as it is on the subject of ecclesiastical design and Christian art, stating the means that should be taken as regards the proper cultivation of the faculties for the arts, in order to arrive at this mental power, I should have thought that such a work would have been considerably more sought after than it has hitherto been. Out of so great a number of persons in this kingdom who have the means to encourage such a work, it is most discouraging to witness so much apathy manifested towards the promotion of my labours in so useful and important a field; nevertheless, I rejoice in having done thus much, and still hope to do much more; but to the attainment of this end encouragement is absolutely necessary.

I am, Rev. Sir, your obedient servant,

Geo. R. Lewis.

61, Upper Norton-street.

—*British Magazine.*

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St. James's National School.—It is in contemplation to erect a new and commodious national school room, in lieu of the one now occupied in Discount-court, for the benefit of the immediate neighbourhood of St. James's Church. Towards this desirable object, the following contributions have already been promised:—Her Majesty's Council of Education, 500*l.*; the National Society, 170*l.*; the Queen Dowager, 20*l.*; Sir Walter C. James, 50*l.*; Rev. W. Knight, 50*l.*; Richard Bethell, 25*l.* The plans are furnished by the Council of Education, and involve an outlay which will require great assiduity and exertion on the part of the promoters of the object to enable them to carry it through. Judging, however, from the past, we have little doubt but the undertaking will be accomplished, and without much loss of time either. We heartily wish it success.—*Hull Packet.*

## WARMING AND VENTILATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

Sir,—I have to perform a duty in apologizing to Mr. Bernhardt for having carelessly, but unintentionally, misrepresented him in (No. 22, page 272), respecting his having been employed in the Custom-house ventilation. I am sure Mr. B. will acquit me of the intention, such a course being, of all others, the least likely to answer the purpose I have in view—TRUTH.

The quotations I made from Dr. Ure were taken from a paper read by that gentleman (Dr. Ure) before the Royal Society, in 1836; and the method of warming and ventilation, so severely and so justly condemned, was not placed there under Mr. Bernhardt's directions, as it would appear from the following reasons:—In the *Mechanic's Mag.* vol. xxviii. No. 755, is "A Report made to Charles Boyd, Esq., Collector of her Majesty's Customs, for the information of the Honourable Board of Commissioners, upon Bernhardt's Stone-Furnaces, by And. Ure, M.D., F.R.S., &c."

This report is well worth reading by persons interested in these inquiries, as it contains a description of the application of Mr. Bernhardt's stoves in Lord King's (now the Earl of Lovelace's) mansion in St. James's-square, and shews (as I think) the error of the principle on which they are constructed. Here are a few extracts from the report:—

"My Dear Sir,—Soon after the receipt of your note enclosing Mr. Bernhardt's letter to the Honourable Commissioners of Customs relative to warming and ventilating your Long-room, I paid a visit to Lord King's house in St. James's-square, agreeable to Mr. Bernhardt's invitation, to inspect his plan as erected in it. I was accompanied by an intelligent scientific friend. What was my astonishment at finding no less than four large elaborate furnaces, built up in that moderate-sized mansion, all of them in full activity, and consuming four times as much fuel as would, with judicious economy, heat a house four times the size." After describing the furnaces, the Doctor continues: "Did you adopt Mr. Bernhardt's furnace, you might justly inscribe over it, 'Incidit in scyllam cupiens vitare charybdin,' or, in plain English, you would get out of the frying-pan into the fire. There is, moreover, not the slightest novelty in Mr. Bernhardt's arrangement." * * * The Doctor then proceeds to condemn it as unwholesome: "My own sensations were exactly similar to those I experienced when standing near the outlet valve of hot air in your examiner's rooms; for the air arising from Mr. Bernhardt's flue orifices indicated a temperature of 150°." The Doctor further on states, that the whole heating surface amounted to 1,888 feet super.!! "sufficient, were it judiciously employed, to warm the vast area of St. Paul's." "When I last visited these constructions of 'the Architect from Saxony,' as Mr. Bernhardt styles himself, * * * his noble employer very politely shewed me the whole arrangement of the stoves, but told me he meant to employ them *chiefly* in warming the house during his absence in the country; and I found, in fact, *that none of the stoves were heated on that occasion.*" After describing and condemning "the decomposing smoke before it leaves the chimney system," the Doctor then delivers his opinions of Mr. Bernhardt's philosophical qualifications: "having had an opportunity during a long interview, which he (Mr. B.) lately bestowed upon me, of assuring myself that he is very slenderly acquainted with either the chemical or physical principles of heating or ventilating apartments, I have not deemed it worth while to inspect his recent operations." * * * And then, speaking of Mr. B.'s operations at the House of Commons, he says, "for certainly, if subterraneous furnaces, like those at Lord King's mansion, be set in action under the Houses of Parliament, a blow may be inflicted upon the heads of the nation, which shall throw the machinations of Guy Fawkes into shade;" After attributing the employment of Mr. Bernhardt then to jobbing influences!! the Doctor concludes thus: "the prime functionary of this German Stove Society had the hardihood to tell me in my own house, that if I made an unfavourable report concerning it to the Board of Customs, he would employ Mr. Faraday!! to refute me, and write a certificate in its favour; in the same modest strain, he asserted that Bernhardt's plan of ventilation was founded upon principles which no philosopher in this country *did (or could) understand!* As one of the humblest, but not least zealous, disciples of science, I acknowledge myself incapable of discovering either the novelty or worth of the scheme. I am, my dear Sir, yours faithfully,

"Andrew Ure.

"November 23rd, 1837."

It was in consequence of having mislaid this report, that made me fall in the error I am now endeavouring to correct; but I much fear that in endeavouring to save himself from Scylla he will fall into Charybdes, or, in plain English, that he has

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